



# CITIZEN NEWS

Yorktown, Virginia

Vol. 26, No. 3

Fall 2005



## School Mosquito Program Wins 2005 NACO Award

York County's innovative mosquito prevention elementary school program, established to enable third grade students to become "mosquito beaters" in the County's mosquito management effort to "fight the bite" and the diseases they carry, has been awarded a 2005 National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award.

Each elementary school visited is provided with an animated educational "Jo Jo the Mosquito" presentation along with handouts followed by an engaging question and answer session about what was learned. The hope is that the children retain the presented information and put it to immediate use at their homes by eliminating mosquito container breeding sites in addition to encouraging their family members to do likewise.

A follow-on mosquito prevention poster contest also is offered. This year, more than 70 students provided creative posters from the visited schools. The winner received a \$50 savings bond at his school and all other involved students were personally presented with certificates of participation.



Mosquito Control Division Manager Tom Gallagher recognizes the winning poster.

## Election Day Is Nov. 8

Election day is Tuesday, November 8. Voters will cast their ballots for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Member, 91<sup>st</sup> or 96<sup>th</sup> District State House of Delegates.

The registration books close October 11 at 5 p.m. for the November 8 election. A reminder to those who move after registering to vote—you must be registered in the precinct in which you live to be qualified to vote. Re-registrations with address change must also meet the registration deadline.

Eligible citizens may register at one of the following locations:

- Registrar's Office, Administration Center, 224 Ballard St., Yorktown
- York County Public Libraries, 100 Long Green Blvd., Tabb and 8500 George Washington Memorial Hwy., Yorktown
- Griffin-Yeates Center, 1490 Government Rd., Williamsburg

For information on additional state agencies offering voter registration or mail applications, call the Registrar's Office at 890-3440 or visit the website at [www.yorkcounty.gov/voting](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/voting).

### Unable To Go to the Polls On Election Day?

Absentee voting is available for those who will be out of their precinct on November 8 or are unable to go to their polling place due to a physical illness or disability, or otherwise qualify to vote an absentee ballot. Ballots are available 45 days prior to an election. Thursday, November 3, is the last day absentee ballot applications will be accepted by mail. To request an absentee ballot by mail, call the Registrar's Office at 890-3440, or visit the website at [www.yorkcounty.gov/voting](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/voting). The deadline for voting an absentee ballot in person at the Registrar's Office, 224 Ballard St., Yorktown, is November 5 at

Please see **Elections** on page 6

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Board of Supervisors Actions

May 3, 2005

- Authorized the execution of a contract with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin Inc. for a fee not to exceed \$813,000 for architectural and engineering services to provide master planning, design, and construction management services to build a 17-field athletic complex on land adjacent to the Harwoods Mill reservoir York County is leasing from Newport News Waterworks.
- Authorized the establishment of rental fees, occupancy limits and usage rules for the newly remodeled Freight Shed building in the Riverwalk Landing project. Fees will offset the cost of managing, operating and maintaining the building for special events.

May 17, 2005

- Approved a proposal to allow a right in/right out access driveway from the westbound lanes of Victory Boulevard (Route 171) to a parcel located on the north side of Victory Boulevard at its intersection with Route 17, requested by Mid-Atlantic Commercial Realty, on behalf of Tribek Properties.
- Approved a proposed amendment to York County’s Zoning Map by reclassifying approximately 15.3 acres located on the north side of George Washington Memorial Highway (Route 17) to allow construction of up to 76 age-restricted (62 and older) quadruplex homes.
- Authorized the construction of a two-story building for use as a rehearsal hall, accessory office and storage space for the Fifes and Drums of York Town.

June 7, 2005

- Discussed need for possible purchase of new voting machines with Mr. Otis Childress, chairman of the York County Electoral Board.
- Accepted grant funds from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development 2005 Disaster Recovery Fund.

June 21, 2005

- Established restrictions to prohibit large vehicle parking on the streets within the Victory Industrial Park.
- Authorized an amendment to a special use permit that would allow the Providence Classical School of the Ascension of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church, 114 Palace Lane (Route 690), to increase its maximum enrollment from 111 to 140 students.
- Approved the construction of a second baseball field at Zook Field, located at 110 Cook Road and the addition of eight 60-foot high stadium-type (multi-fixture) light poles surrounding the two existing ball fields and use of the facility after dusk.

Contact Your Board Member

District 1

Walter C. Zaremba  
106 Royal Grant Drive  
Williamsburg, VA 23185  
(757) 890-3328 (voice mail)  
zaremba@yorkcounty.gov

District 2

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noll@yorkcounty.gov

District 3

Kenneth L. Bowman  
109 York Point Drive  
Seaford, VA 23696  
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bowman@yorkcounty.gov

District 4

James S. Burgett  
106 Pageland Drive  
Yorktown, VA 23693  
(757) 890-3331 (voice mail)  
burgett@yorkcounty.gov

District 5

Thomas G. Shepperd  
131 Chinquapin Orchard  
Yorktown, VA 23693  
(757) 890-3332 (voice mail)  
shepperd@yorkcounty.gov

Board Appointments

•Beautification Committee

Mary Alice DeBow  
Barbara Dunbar  
Joanne Smith  
Debra Wolfe

•Board of Building Code Appeals

William Hurst

•Colonial Services Board

Barbara Burge

•Historic Yorktown Design Committee

David R. Douglas

•Historical Committee

Glen Brazelton

•Planning Commission

Christopher Abel

•Regional Issues Committee

Kevin J. Collins

•Senior Center Board

Rosetta C. Billups  
Ida F. Cross  
Josh Lyons  
Robert T. Neely  
Margaret G. Rowe  
Myrtle I. Smith  
Sherrell D. Swanson

•Stormwater Advisory Committee

Bob Groves

•York County Youth Commission

Ben Abel	Tiara Hicks
Kelsey Andleton	Aagya Mathur
Kristin Ashby	Kyle Messick
Peter Bakkum	Crystal Palting
Adrienne Beaumont	Jennifer Rosso
Jaeun Cho	Nicholas Swanson
Jeri Dilts	Sarah Trimble
	Lauren Watkins

•Yorktown Historic Design Committee

Harvey Weinstein

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Citizen News is published quarterly for the citizens of York County. One copy is mailed to each household in the County. Address comments to P.O. Box 532, Yorktown, VA, 23690 or call 890-3310.		County Administrator ..... James O. McReynolds Public Information Officer ..... Gregory C. Davy Information & Publications Coordinator ..... Gail L. Whittaker	

## HISTORIC YORKTOWN PARTNERSHIP

### CITIZEN REWARDS CARD

The businesses and attractions in Historic Yorktown, including the new businesses at Riverwalk Landing, are partnering together to offer a rewards program to all York County citizens.

To receive your Citizen Rewards Card and a list of current offers and participating businesses, bring a valid I.D. or utility bill with a York County address to one of the following locations:

**York County Administration Center - 224 Ballard Street**  
8:15 am - 5 pm Monday through Friday (except holidays)

OR

**Yorktown Hospitality and Ticket Center - 323-A2 Water Street**  
10 am - 9 pm Daily  
<http://www.yorkcounty.gov/publicinfo/discount.html>  
(757) 890-3300

## Virginia Symphony To Perform September 3

The Virginia Symphony will perform a free outdoor concert under the stars Saturday, Sept. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at Riverwalk Landing. Arrive early for a pre-concert performance by the Fifes & Drums of York Town and picnic judging with prizes awarded to 1st and 2nd place winners. Vendors will be on site to provide light suppers, soft drinks, ice cream and desserts. Sponsored by the Celebrate Yorktown Committee and the York County Arts Commission. Free. 6 to 10 p.m.

## MAC Program Connects Fathers With Kids

The York County Head Start sponsors the Men Advocating for Children (MAC) program, combining the efforts of fathers, father figures and other male role models of the children enrolled in its program. The program's goal is to not only make an impact with their own children, but also in the York County community. Participants learn how to relate to the children in their lives, how to be appropriate role models consistent with the development of their child, and to offer parenting support to each other. Meeting times vary. For more information, contact Kevin Cuscé at (757) 890-3888.

## Head Start Accepting Applications

York County Head Start is now accepting applications for the 2005-2006 school year. This program is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and is licensed through the state by the Department of Social Services. Enrollment is open to families meeting federal income guidelines and whose children are aged 3 to 5 (after September 30). This FREE preschool program extends services to include the special needs of children with disabilities.

Head Start does not discriminate in any of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. For information, call 890-3888.

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## York Boaters Reminded About "No Wake" Law

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries reminds boaters to be mindful of the "No Wake" law, which states that it is unlawful to operate any motorboat greater than "no wake" speed when within 50 feet or less of docks, piers, boathouses, boat ramps and people in the water. This definition does not prohibit the pulling of a skier with a rope of less than 50 feet.

"No wake" is defined as the slowest possible speed required to maintain steerage and headway. Operators must reduce speed to avoid endangering persons or property by the effect of the motorboat's wake when approaching or passing vessels under way, lying to, at anchor, or made fast to the shore; or, when approaching or passing piers, docks, or boathouses; or when approaching or passing persons in the water or using water skis or surfboards.

A safe speed is a speed less than the maximum at which the operator can take proper and effective action to avoid collision and stop within a distance appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions.

In establishing a safe operating speed, the operator must take into account: visibility, traffic density, ability to maneuver the vessel (stopping distance and turning ability), background light at night, proximity of navigational hazards, draft of the vessel, limitations of radar equipment, and the state of wind, sea and current. For a complete list of Virginia boating laws, visit [www.dgif.state.va.us/boating/wog/](http://www.dgif.state.va.us/boating/wog/).



The newly remodeled Farm Fresh in James York Plaza, Merrimac Trail. Farm Fresh plans to completely renovate the former Winn Dixie store, located at the corner of Route 17 and Goodwin Neck Road, later this year.

## Office of Economic Development: Local Business Report

By Melissa Dickens, Business Development Representative.  
Telephone: 890-3317 or E-mail [econdev@yorkcounty.gov](mailto:econdev@yorkcounty.gov).

Thanks to all of the York County businesses who attended our annual Business Appreciation Week reception on May 19 at the Watermen's Museum. The reception was a huge success, with wonderful food from Your Perfect Party and a preview tour of the new Riverwalk Landing Development. York County greatly appreciates all of its businesses and would like to again thank them for choosing York County as their business location.

The Office of Economic Development, the York County Chamber's Education committee, and the Virginia Peninsula Chamber are conducting a survey, designed to help us better understand the types of business education that local businesses would most benefit from. Please fill out a survey at [www.yorkcounty.gov/econdev](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/econdev).

Do you have a website for your business? If not, you may be missing the E-Commerce boat! The York County E-Commerce Business Assistance Grant Program offers matching grant funds to all York County businesses that would like to establish or enhance their online presence. The Economic Development Authority granted \$30,000 to the York County Chamber of Commerce, who is administering the program. Businesses in York County can apply for matching grants of up to \$500 each (\$1,000 for Woman or Minority owned businesses) for the purposes of creating a website for their business or upgrading their current website.

Interested businesses should contact the Chamber at [www.YorkCountyCC.org](http://www.YorkCountyCC.org) or 877-5920 for information on the program and for a list of authorized providers. Applications can be submitted online and will be reviewed on a monthly, rolling basis. Only work done after the Chamber's approval will qualify for a grant.

The York County Office of Economic Development is here to serve both new and existing businesses. If you are interested in establishing, expanding, or relocating a business in York County, please contact us and let us know how we can assist you or help improve the County's business environment for everyone.

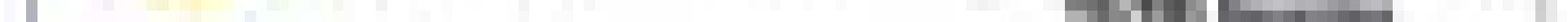
## Prepare Now For Hurricanes

Hurricane season 2005 is forecast to be a busy one and with a high number of named storms so early in the season, it appears the forecasters are fairly accurate. Many residents are still recovering from the damages to their homes and property caused by Hurricane Isabel. It is hopeful that since Hurricane Isabel each of us affected has worked toward better preparation and ways to better cope with the next hurricane. In the past, the public has been advised to prepare to be self-sufficient for *three* days after a disaster. But Isabel educated us all that we need to be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least *seven* days following a major storm

The following are some important preparedness tips:

- Have a flashlight and battery powered radio with extra batteries. Listen to radio station WXGM 99.1 FM during a disaster to get important York County information.
- Have a first aid kit.
- Create an emergency contact list for family members.
- Use cell phone sparingly to preserve batteries.
- Check on neighbors.
- If you evacuate, pre-establish your plan and know the route you will take. However, once winds are strong enough to blow debris around, remain in your home.
- Secure your valuables in a safety deposit box or take them with you if you choose to evacuate.
- Secure your home if you leave.
- If you remain in your home, stay there until roads are cleared and traffic control is established.
- Build a disaster supply kit and buy non-perishable food.
- Plan to be self-sufficient in a public shelter. Shelters have very few amenities. Remember to plan for your pet and arrange for their shelter with your pet's veterinarian and/or kennel.
- Plan for family members and friends who have special needs. A shelter may not be the best place for someone receiving home health care. Develop the plan for special needs individuals in conjunction with your physician.
- Keep prescription medications filled and consult with physician for an additional supply before the storm.
- Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed. Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased or damaged limbs, and strategically remove branches so that wind can blow through.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts. Hurricanes often bring long periods of heavy rain. Providing clear drainage will help prevent flooding.
- Be prepared to be without electricity and telephone. Reduce the amount of frozen and refrigerated food stored during late summer and early fall to minimize loss due to spoilage.
- Check insurance policies for adequate coverage.
- Keep cash on hand. Keep good records of disaster related expenses.
- Put important papers together in a waterproof container and keep them with you if you evacuate.
- Stay out of damaged areas, particularly public areas, until they are deemed safe.
- Keep your vehicles in good working order and keep the fuel tank topped off.
- Prepare your property for possible landfall by boarding up windows, placing lawn furniture and other loose items in a secure storage area, and unplugging electrical appliances.
- Follow instructions carefully when using a generator. Consult an electrician or visit [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com) for more information.

Additional information can be obtained by visiting the York County Fire and Life Safety website [www.yorkcounty.gov](http://www.yorkcounty.gov).



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## 2006 General Property Assessment Process Now Under Way

The 2006 general reassessment of all real property within York County is progressing. Part of the process this reassessment cycle has been an information mailing to all residential property owners. In this notice we have provided all information contained in our files concerning your property. Please review the information and contact us if there are any discrepancies. Property information is also available on the internet at [www.yorkcounty.gov](http://www.yorkcounty.gov) and in the Real Estate Assessment Office located on the second floor of the Finance Building adjacent the Courthouse in Yorktown.

The Code of Virginia requires that all property be assessed at 100% of its fair market value. State law also requires that similar properties shall have a similar assessment. Currently, the local residential real estate market is appreciating rapidly. Any recent comparable sales of properties within your neighborhood are used as the basis for determining any changes in assessed value for 2006. Real estate sales information (indexed by neighborhood) is updated monthly and available to the public in our office.



This year, reassessment notices will be mailed to property owners during the last week of December. Administrative hearings will be held in the Real Estate Assessment Office in January. Dates for administrative hearings will be listed on your reassessment notice.

### Fall Landscape Extravaganza

The Fall Landscape Extravaganza, an educational program sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension on planting trees and shrubs, and selecting plants in the landscape, will be held Saturday October 1, from 9 a.m. until noon at St. Joan of Arc Church, Route 17, in Yorktown near York High School.

Get on the mailing list for information on the free Fall Landscape Extravaganza. Bulbs and other subjects also will be presented.

### Local 4-Her Selected For National 4-H Congress

Congratulations to Danielle Bluestone, who was selected for an all expenses paid trip to the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia! Danielle is a member of the Millennium Riders 4-H Horse club of York County, and was one of 9 teens selected statewide.



### Elections from page 1

5 p.m. The office is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, October 29 and November 5, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information on emergency absentee voting which may extend the deadline until 2 p.m. on November 7, call the Registrar's Office.

**ATTENTION QUEENS LAKE PRECINCT VOTERS:** Registered voters in the Queens Lake Precinct will continue to vote at **Magruder Elementary School, 700 Penniman Road, Williamsburg**. New voter identification cards have been mailed to voters reflecting this as a change in permanent polling location.

**YORKTOWN PRECINCT: TEMPORARY CHANGE**

**IN POLLING PLACE.** Voters in the Yorktown Precinct will have a temporary relocation of polling place to **Yorktown Middle School, 11201 George Washington Memorial Highway**, beginning with the November 8, 2005, General Election. General Registrar Pamela White will send notices prior to the November election to those voters affected by this change.

The polls will be open from **6 a.m. until 7 p.m.** at all York County polling places. If you are uncertain where to vote, visit our website at [www.yorkcounty.gov/voting/precinct.htm](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/voting/precinct.htm) and click on "Find Your Polling Place" or call the Registrar's Office at 890-3440 **before** November 8.

## Seminars To Explain New Drug Coverage For Seniors On Medicare

Beginning in 2006, elderly and disabled persons on Medicare will have access to drug coverage, as provided in the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. To better serve those residents eligible for this program, known as "Part D," York County Special Programs, the Social Security Administration, and York-Poquoson Social Services will sponsor three informational sessions on the new benefit, as well as offer assistance in completing the Application for Help with Medicare Drug Plan Costs. Sessions are scheduled for:

- Wednesday, August 31, 9 to 11 a.m. at the Tabb Library, 100 Long Green Boulevard, Tabb (just off Rt. 134 adjacent to Victory Family YMCA).
  - Thursday, September 8, 9 to 11 a.m. at the Senior Center of York, 5314 George Washington Memorial Highway, Grafton (in the Washington Square Shopping Center).
  - Thursday, September 29, 1 to 3 p.m. at the Charles Brown Park Community Room, 1950 Old Williamsburg Road, Lackey.
- Please call 890-3883 to pre-register for one of these sessions.

The Part D program, which begins January 2006, is available to everyone with Medicare coverage, but you must enroll to receive coverage. Medicare beneficiaries will have access to two or more plans that contract with Medicare to provide the new drug benefit. This new program will give participants a choice of prescription plans that offer various types of coverage. Medicare drug plan enrollees will pay a monthly Part D new premium, in addition to the monthly "Part B" premium. The "Part B" program provides supplemental insurance for people 65 and over, or with certain disabilities.

However, if the Medicare participant has limited income and resources, there is extra help with prescription drug plan costs. In May, the Social Security Administration began sending notices to 20 million Medicare beneficiaries – almost half of all

beneficiaries – informing them that they may be eligible for a low-income subsidy to assist with their Medicare Part D premiums and co-payments, and also contained a low-income subsidy application.

Beneficiaries may complete and submit the forms for future evaluation by the Social Security Administration and/or state Medicaid agencies.

**Note:** Persons with both Medicare and Medicaid, or those receiving Supplemental Security Income, are automatically eligible and enrolled for the extra help and do not have to complete the application for additional assistance. All other persons with Medicare coverage who think they may be eligible must apply for extra help to pay the Part D premium.

To better help you understand the new drug coverage, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid will mail to participants the "Medicare and You 2006 Handbook" containing information on how to choose and join the drug plan that best meets your needs. In the meantime, consider the following tips:

- You can sign up for the prescription drug plan from November 15, 2005, through May 15, 2006.
- If you enroll by December 31, 2005, your Medicare prescription drug plan coverage will begin on January 1, 2006. You will not miss a day of coverage. If you enroll after December 31, 2005, your coverage will begin the first day of the month after you join (Example: If you join January 15, your coverage will go into effect February 1).
- It's important to join a Medicare prescription drug program when you are first eligible. If you join a plan after May 15, 2006, it's likely you will have to pay a higher monthly premium – at least 1 percent more for every month you waited to sign up for the drug program.

For more information, attend one of the informational sessions listed above, or call (800) Medicare (633-4227). Information is also available on the Internet at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov).



### YOUR INFORMATION PARTNERS DURING TIMES OF EMERGENCY



## Helpful Tax Information From the Commissioner Of The Revenue

**Personal Property Tax and Proration** – York County prorates Personal Property Tax on motor vehicles only.

**Vehicle(s) Purchased and New Residents:** Vehicles must be registered and registration payment received (if applicable) within thirty (30) days from the date of purchase or move in. The vehicle may be subject to a prorated tax.

**Vehicle(s) Disposed or moved within the State of Virginia:** You must notify the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Commissioner of the Revenue immediately. The vehicle may be subject to a prorated tax.

**Vehicle(s) moved OUT of the State of Virginia:** Proof of registration in the new state will be required, before proration will be considered. Proration will be based upon the date registered in the new state. A vehicle will remain taxed in York County until such proof has been provided.

**Active Duty Military and Retired Military Persons:** The Federal Soldiers' & Sailors' Civil Relief Act exempts active duty military personnel from personal property tax in any state other than their legal state of residence. Therefore, vehicles registered in the active duty non-resident military person's name only will be exempt as long as each owner furnishes a LES for the period of situs. Any vehicle jointly titled with a non-military person is taxable. Once military personnel retire and stay in York County, each owner must provide a copy of their Form DD214. Vehicle(s) will be subject to a prorated tax.

Failure to comply with these deadlines will result in late filing penalties. If you have any questions regarding Personal Property Taxes or Proration, please contact the Commissioner

of the Revenue's Office at (757) 890-3381. You may also visit our website at: [www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue).

**If You File a Schedule C or C-EZ (Profit or Loss From a Business)** – If you file a Schedule C or C-EZ with your Federal Tax Return, you are considered engaged in business. If Line E on this form indicates that your business is located at a York County address or is left blank (which indicates the address on your tax return is your business location), it is presumed that your business is operating in York County. If you have not obtained a York County Business License, you are in violation of County and state laws.

In addition to obtaining a business license, you are also required to file a Tax Return of Business Tangible Personal Property, Machinery and Tools, on all your business furniture, tools, and equipment owned, used or leased as of January 1, 2005. For more information, call the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office at 890-3383, or visit our website at: [www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/revenue).

### Mosquito Beater News Briefs

• **Citizens Encouraged to Keep Drainageways Clean.** It is essential to keep all drainageways clean to promote drainage and prevent mosquitoes. For the past six months Drainage and Mosquito Control teams maintained 132 off-road County drainage easements amounting to 40 miles and removed/hailed more than 40 tons of debris from them. It is apparent that much of the removed debris was conveniently deposited into the easements by unconcerned citizens rather than bagging it for trash hauler pickup. When it is known that dumping has occurred, a notice will be provided to the resident concerned requiring that it be removed immediately per section 16-36 of the York County Code. If unresolved in a timely manner, then the County will have it removed at the resident's expense. It is important to remember that the County provides an unlimited clear bagged collection service for three months starting in November. Citizen self-help is always appreciated in keeping our drainageways free of debris.

• **Additional Drainage Maintenance Team.** Good news! As of July, Drainage & Mosquito Control was provided an additional drainage maintenance team to better support the ever increasing County easement drainageways throughout the County. There are now three 4-person teams which will enable a six-month maintenance rotation of the 239 sites that are being scheduled and maintained on a District (1-5) basis. Residents can check when their drainage way was last maintained by visiting the Drainage & mosquito web page: [www.yorkcounty.gov/eds/mosquitocontrol.htm](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/eds/mosquitocontrol.htm) or by calling 890-3790 for the information.

## Animal Medical Care Center



2816 Route 17  
Yorktown  
Just North of Wal-mart  
**867-8808**

**Full Service Animal Hospital  
with Boarding & Grooming**

Serving the Peninsula since 1975

Dr. B. Allen Meyer  
Dr. James C. Foley  
Dr. Colleen C. Morgan

Hours: Mon – Fri 7:00am to 6:00pm;  
Sat 7:00am to 1:00pm

We treat your pet like you do –  
as family!



Paid Advertisement

# York County Beautification Committee



## 2005 Household Chemical Collection

This special program, offered by the Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority (VPPSA), provides an opportunity for residents to dispose of a variety of household chemicals and paint products, including: Gasoline, insecticides, paint, brake fluid, herbicides, solvents and cleaners.

Collection takes place one Saturday morning every other month. This program is available for York County, Hampton, James City County, Poquoson and Williamsburg residents only; proof of residence is required. Please call VPPSA at 259-9850 or visit their website, [www.vppsa.org](http://www.vppsa.org), for more information or contact York County Waste Management at 890-3780.

## Collection Schedule

**York County**  
**County Drive, Yorktown (off Goodwin Neck Road)**

Items will be accepted from 8 a.m. to noon on  
**Saturday, September 10 and**  
**Saturday, November 12**

**James City County**  
**JCSA Employee Parking Lot**  
**Tewning Road (off Iron)**

Items will be accepted from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on  
**Saturday, October 8**

## When Is A Sign Not A (Legal) Sign?

*County Ordinance Considers Safety, Esthetics*

The question has often been asked, "If a tree falls in a forest and no one hears it, does it make a noise?" Something similar might be asked about a sign located in a store window but which cannot be seen from the road. Is it a sign? It may or may not be if located in the window of a building in a commercial or industrial area of the County.

Article 7 of the York County Zoning Ordinance regulates display of signage and allows signs to be displayed in windows with certain restrictions. Such signage does not require a permit and does not count against the total allowable sign area for the business provided it does not occupy more than 25 percent of the total area of the window in which displayed and provided that the sign is not legible (readable) from any public street.

So what could possibly be the reasoning behind an ordinance that, while permitting window signs to be displayed, prohibits them from being legible to the motoring public that is the target audience?

Section 24.1-707(k) of the Zoning Ordinance is written with the intent of balancing the needs of the proprietor for business signage with the goals of preventing sign clutter and associated blight and maintaining public safety. It seeks to prevent excessive sign area that can distract from the visual aesthetics of road front property as well as signage that creates distraction to passing motorists who could lose driving concentration while trying to read multiple sign messages. Lastly, and probably most important, excessive signage in windows of establishments has proven to be detrimental to the ability of patrolling law enforcement to observe activity occurring inside commercial establishments. Studies conducted by law enforcement officials have proven that removal or restriction of use of window signage contributes to good crime prevention practice and a reduction in criminal opportunity.



Ordinances are in place to keep storefront windows attractive and safe. The cluttered window above would not likely be legal; the sign at right is attractive and offers a clear view through the window.



So, as you can see, there are valid reasons for some limitations on the size and amount of allowable window signage. The provisions are in the ordinance, not to be overly restrictive or prohibitive, but rather to promote safety and aesthetics, which are all directed at furthering the quality of life, safety and welfare of County citizens.

## Sewer/Drainage Project Updates

**Back Creek Sanitary Sewer Project.** Construction is complete and the system has been released for individual connections. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact the County's Project Engineer, Michael Elam, at 890-3763.

**Edgehill North Drainage Improvement Project.** Serves the portion of the Edgehill neighborhood roughly north of York-Warwick Drive. The drainage improvements include three stormwater retention facilities, a mini-pump station, culvert replacements and ditch improvements. The construction drawings are currently being prepared with the improvements scheduled to begin in the fall of 2006. For questions, please contact the County's Project Engineer, Anna Drake, at 890-3774.

**Foxwood Drainage Project.** Construction consists of drainage improvements in and around the Darby Road and Route 17 area and will soon be completed. The drainage system improvements will increase the capacity of existing drainage facilities to reduce flooding of upstream properties along Route 17 and nearby on Darby Road. For questions, please contact the County's Project Engineer, Mark Swilley, at 890-3779.

**Marlbank Farm Sanitary Sewer Project.** Construction of the initial phase of the pipeline portion is under construction and proceeding very well. This initial portion will include the area of Old Landing Road and intersecting streets, as well as Three Point Road, a small section of Marlbank Drive, Poplar Point Road, and the portion of Wormley Creek Drive between Marlbank Drive and Old York Hampton Highway. The project is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2006. For questions, please contact the County's Project Engineer, Mark Swilley, at 890-3779.

**Moore's Creek Drainage Improvements Project.** The final design of Phase I is almost complete. The drainage improvements include culvert replacements from Victory Boulevard to the tidal outfall near Wilson Farm Lane, stream restoration and an emergency spillway at the Running Man pond. The anticipated construction start of Phase I is January 2006. The design of Phase II is under way. The drainage area to be served by Phase II roughly includes the Meadowlake, Lotz Acres Section II and Woodlake subdivisions. Three drainage improvement options are being analyzed, one of which includes a drainage retention pond. Construction of Phase II is antici-

pated to start upon the completion of Phase I. For questions, please contact the County's Project Engineer, Anna Drake, at 890-3774.

**Queens Lake Sanitary Sewer Project.** The survey work has begun and the residents of Queens Lake decided to stay with the private water distribution system owned and operated by Aqua Virginia. The sanitary sewer improvements are scheduled to be constructed in four phases. Construction of Phase I is expected to begin in the fall of 2006. We anticipate design input meetings with homeowners to start this fall. For questions, please contact the County's Chief of Utilities, Brian Woodward, at 890-3241.

**Skimino Hills Sanitary Sewer Project.** Pipeline work is still underway. The station construction has progressed well and both stations should be completed during the spring of 2006. For questions, please contact the County's Project Engineer, Mark Swilley, at 890-3779.

**York Point Sewer Project.** The survey work has begun and includes the York Point and Bay Tree Beach areas, as well as Seaford Road east of Smoots Lane, Smoots Lane, De Alba Lane, Wildey Road, Presson Road and Hansford Lane. The project is scheduled to be constructed in two phases with the first phase commencing in the fall of 2006. For questions, please contact the County's Manager of Engineering, Joe Sisler, at 890-3765.

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VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

### York County 4-H Open Houses

Do the letters 4-H mean anything to you? Do you feel like 4-H begins and ends with camp? Come to one of our informational meetings and learn why York County 4-H is the best ticket on the Peninsula!

4-H is an educational program that works with youth ages 5 to 19. Youth participate in research-based, non-formal, hands-on educational experiences that also happen to be a lot of fun! They learn valuable citizen and leadership abilities, and our curriculum and opportunities cover a wide variety of important life skills. We will hold three open-house events to give you a chance to come see what 4-H is all about!

The first session is on **Saturday, September 17**, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in the meeting room at the Tabb branch of the York County Public Library. If you can't make a Saturday, we'll hold a repeat showing from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on **Thursday, September 22** in the same location. For those in upper York County, we'll have an open house on **Wednesday, September 21**, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the James City County branch of the Williamsburg Regional Library, in Norge.

If you're an adult who is interested in volunteering, but never really knew how you wanted to contribute, this is a great time to see the many ways you can help us help our youth! Call 890-4940 if you have any questions regarding these events, or e-mail your questions to [ex199@vt.edu](mailto:ex199@vt.edu).

### 4-H Camp 2006 Teen Counselors Needed

Yes, it's early, but we are already planning for next year's camp. In an important change, we will be selecting Teen Camp Counselors for the 2006 camp this fall! If you are interested in being a Teen Camp Counselor for the 2006 4-H camp, please contact us to make sure you are on our mailing list. We will begin sending out applications at the end of October. The date for next year's camp has not yet been announced, but will be available prior to the application process. Contact us at 890-4940 and ask to be added to our Teen Counselor mailing list.

### Free Fescue Maintenance Lawn Classes

Lawns are an essential element in the landscape. Lawns help tie together gardens and other elements in the landscapes. Lawns can become a very expensive and inefficient part of the landscape if improper fertilization and cultural practices are not observed. This inefficiency can lead to environmental problems caused by non-point pollutants. The summer months cause lawns to be affected by disease, drought and unfavorable growing conditions. These clinics are designed to assist the homeowner to assess the lawn situation, know the steps to take

to renovate, and then apply those practices to your situation. All clinics are held 10 a.m. until noon, rain or shine. Free Fescue lawn publication given out at clinic. Access on our website at: [www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce).

### Lawn Maintenance Clinic Schedule

**Saturday, August 27, Grafton True Value, Grafton**

**Saturday, September 10, Wildey Road, Seaford**

**Saturday, September 17, Ken Mathews Garden Center**

**Saturday, September 24, Creek Point Circle, Upper York County area**

Register on the web at [www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce). We will confirm your registration and provide directions via e-mail. No e-mail? Call 890-4940 to pre-register and get directions.

The information presented in these lawn clinics is from research-based data from our Land Grant Universities- Virginia Tech and Virginia State. Materials will be available to all participants.

### York 4-H Teen Council Comes to Life

The York County 4-H Teen Council is coming back to life! We're looking for teens, ages 14 to 18, who are looking for leadership development opportunities in a fun environment. Hands-on activities and learning, service projects, field trips, and the occasional pizza party to celebrate the club's achievements are all part of the experience. We are building our roster now, so call our office at 890-4940 or e-mail us at [ex199@vt.edu](mailto:ex199@vt.edu) to sign up to receive information on the Teen Council. We expect a launch date in mid-September. We need adult volunteers who would like to work with this fantastic group of teens!

### 4-H E-mail: Fast As Lightning!

4-H information is now available via e-mail updates! Receive our Clover Chronicle newsletter via e-mail, as well as important updates on fantastic 4-H happenings. Just visit our web page at [www.yorkcounty.gov/vce](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/vce) and subscribe through the automated entry box near the top of the page. It's fun, it's easy, and all of your friends will want to sign up too!

### Live Call-in Gardening Radio Program

Kathy Lewis answers horticultural questions on WHRV 89.5 FM on September 21, October 19 and November 16 from 12 to 1 p.m.

*If you are a person with a disability and desire any assistive devices, services or other accommodations to participate in any of these activities, please contact the York Cooperative Extension Office at 890-4940 during business hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m. to discuss accommodations ten days prior to the event.*

# "Living in York County... Selling in York County"

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**Call Greg Garrett at 879-0000**

The source of this information is from greg garrett realty.com records and/or Real Estate Information Network as of 3-31-05.



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## Lake, Pond Maintenance Books Available

In many cases, the homeowners who live around lakes and ponds are responsible for their maintenance and quality. These wet ponds are owned by the homeowner association members as common property and must be maintained by you, the association members. These maintenance requirements and standards are usually found in your homeowner's bylaws.

Until recently, there was no local information available to the public to use as research material to understand how to maintain our lakes and ponds. To remedy this, the York County Stormwater Advisory Committee obtained three books for the public to use to help you understand the biology of lakes and ponds and how to properly maintain them. They are "Lakes and Pond Management Guidebook" by Steve McComas, "Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality" by the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, and "The Biology of Lakes and Ponds" by Christer Bronmark and Lars-Anders Hansson.

These books are now available at the Tabb and York libraries for public use.

For more information, log on to [www.yorkcounty.gov/stormwater/index](http://www.yorkcounty.gov/stormwater/index).

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